The Sun.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 1905.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second-Class Mail Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month $0 50
DAILY, Per Year 6 00
SUNDAY, Per Year 2 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year 8 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month 70
Postage to foreign countries added.

Published by The Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Short Inaugural Addresses.

The shortest inaugural address ever delivered by a President of the United States we have recently printed twice as a model of brevity and solemn self-consecration to duty under the law. That was GEORGE WASHINGTON'S address when he took the oath of office for his second term.

Another very brief inaugural was pronounced by ABRAHAM LINCOLN on March 4, 1865. Not because that wonderful speech contained only about six hundred words, but because of its marvellous diction, rivalling, as JOHN HAY has said, the fire and dignity of the old Hebrew prophets, and because of its magnanimous sentiments prophetic of national reunion, LINCOLN'S second inaugural has found its merited place among the masterpieces of all time.

Longer than LINCOLN'S second inaugural, yet brief in comparison with the greater number of similar utterances during our national history, are JACKSON'S second, GRANT'S first, and those of ZACHARY TAYLOR, CHESTER A. ARTHUR and ANDREW JOHNSON.

With instinctive good taste Mr. ROOSEVELT yesterday restricted his utterances to less than twelve hundred words, about the number employed by ANDREW JACKSON at the beginning of his second term, and only four or five hundred more than ABRAHAM LINCOLN used on a memorable occasion. Mr. ROOSEVELT also confined his discourse to the broader generalities of national duty and responsibility. His sentiments are unexceptionable, and they are expressed in fine literary form.

The comparative study of the inaugural addresses of the successive American Presidents is an education and a pleasure which we commend to citizens of the present generation. Once in a while you discover a really illuminating thought, or phrase, or figure. For example, how many people are aware that it was JAMES MADISON who said, in his first inaugural, 1809, the Constitution "is the cement of the Union."

It was and is. The cement must not be hacked out or picked away from between the stones of the edifice.

The Czar's Two Proclamations.

The two proclamations, apparently contradictory, that have been issued almost simultaneously by the Autocrat of all the Russias will puzzle all friends of Russia and dishearten any who have built hopes on NICHOLAS II. Intervening circumstances have sometimes induced despots to change their minds in a hurry, but we have no intimation of untoward incidents interposed between the Czar's edict and his rescript to the Minister of the Interior; the only cause apparent is vacillation or confusion of ideas on his part or on that of his advisers.

Coming, a few weeks ago, at the request of the local assemblies, the granting of an elective assembly to the nation would have ranked among the great events in Russian history. Even if conceded after the first uprisings it would have indicated that the Czar's counsellors had awakened to the realities of life and were preparing to deal with them. Now, after repeated swaying to and fro, put on the sole ground of the Czar's will, which has shown itself to be very uncertain, the concession has all the marks of those nineteenth century constitutions that arbitrary monarchs were ready to swear to in the moment of danger and much more ready to abjure when they felt themselves strong again.

Most European countries can supply parallels to the Czar's rescript in the first half of the last century. It cannot but be regarded with suspicion, and it will be observed that in promising an assembly of "the worthiest men" who shall be "elected" there is no suggestion that that body shall be either representative or popular. Faith in the sincerity of the concession is weakened by the remarkable edict that accompanied or immediately preceded it.

The Czar's appeal to his people is a declaration that he, with the men about him, has learned nothing, and will learn nothing; it is an assertion of absolute autocracy at a time when his people are begging for reasonable concessions.

Nearly a century ago a ruler as autocratic as he, FREDERICK WILLIAM III. of Prussia, chastened by misfortune, was able to get on common ground with his people, and his address, "*An meinem Volke*," spurred them to drive from the land a hated foreign invader even more despotic than himself. But to whom and to what does NICHOLAS II. appeal? Does the war in the East threaten in the least Russian soil? No Russian can look on the Manchurian adventure as touching his native land, and no feeling of nationality can be expected in the varied oppressed races, Finns, Poles Germans, Lithuanians, Armenians, Jews, held in bondage by the Czar.

He strikes an ominous note in the mention of attacks on the Orthodox Church. No hint of such occurrences has been suggested so far. It can refer only to the excuses given for the slaughter and plundering of the Jews, and the inference must be drawn that the intention is to keep them up. Is NICHOLAS'S cry for help merely a desperate call to superstition and race hatred?

It is possible, perhaps, to look on the rescript calling for an assembly as a tactless and wrongheaded extension of this untimely assertion of autocratic theory. What the Czar refused to his loyal zemstvos, to his wiser counsellors, to the people who appealed to him as their father, he grants at his own time because he chooses to. There are historical precedents for taking such an attitude, but in English history it certainly proved disastrous to CHARLES I. and to GEORGE III.

The Broadway Tabernacle.

To-day the new building erected for the Broadway Tabernacle at Broadway and Fifty-sixth street will be dedicated with imposing religious services. It is a church edifice which contains many novel features.

Its cost, including the price paid for the land, will be toward $900,000 when the whole of it is finished. Inasmuch, however, as the last site, at Broadway and Thirty-fourth street, was sold about three years ago for $1,300,000, a large sum remains as an endowment of the religious enterprise. That site, it may be remarked as an indication of the growth in the values of Broadway landed property, was bought in 1857 for $45,500. The original site of the church, in Broadway near the corner of Worth street, was sold in that year for $122,000.

The Broadway Tabernacle, when it was situated in lower Broadway, where it remained for about seventeen years, was in many respects the most famous, or at least the most conspicuous, of American churches. It was the assembling place for the "May anniversaries" of the great religious and reformatory societies and for musical gatherings, a notable feature in the life of New York of that time; but its chief note came to it as the scene of the passionate anti-slavery meetings which preceded the civil war. For such purposes it was especially adapted by reason of its admirable acoustic qualities and its capacity for holding a great assembly of people. Often its vast and unobstructed audience room resounded with the eloquence of WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON, WENDELL PHILLIPS, HENRY WARD BEECHER, FREDERICK DOUGLASS and all the more famous abolition orators of that time of excitement. Thus its reputation throughout the Union was rather as a centre of anti-slavery agitation than as a temple of distinctively religious worship, though its establishment as a Congregational church had been due to the suggestion of the famous revivalist of that period, CHARLES G. FINNEY, and the wave of passionate religious emotion stirred up by him.

No history of New York, nor indeed of this country, is complete which neglects to give importance to the Broadway Tabernacle in the development of the sentiment which culminated in the abolition of slavery. Inside its great assembly room violent scenes of disorder, provoked by contests between abolitionists and pro-slavery intruders, afforded impressive evidence of the excitement over the question which then prevailed. It was a time when abolition was a term of contempt in New York, and the little minority of abolitionists who held their annual conventions in the Broadway Tabernacle were regarded by the conservative citizens, both Whigs and Democrats, very much as anarchists are looked on now. They were a brave coterie whom no tumult could prevent from uttering the faith that was in them. They would not be howled down.

Since the removal of the Tabernacle from lower Broadway it has been more distinctively a Congregational church, devoted almost exclusively to purely religious exercises. In its new edifice, to be dedicated to-day, it has introduced novel features, with a view to general moral and social improvement.

A Pioneer in the Advancement of Women.

The letter we print to-day from the Rev. ANTOINETTE BROWN BLACKWELL is a document of significance in the discussion raised by Dr. OSLER concerning the intellectual productivity of youth and age. Mrs. BLACKWELL is now on the eve of her eightieth birthday, yet it will be seen that to her remain strength of mind and power of vigorous literary expression.

We shall not attempt to reply to her suggestions touching remarks made by us, for in the main we do not gainsay their force and applicability, and we give honor to the broad spirit of humanity of which they are the expression. It is rather our purpose and our privilege to give due recognition to the distinction of the career of Mrs. BLACKWELL.

She is one of the women of this country who were earliest in the movement for the advancement of women and for the enlargement of their legal rights and the sphere of their activities, a contemporary and compeer of ELIZABETH CADY STANTON, LUCY STONE, SUSAN BROWNELL ANTHONY and the others of that now illustrious company of women which was pursued with thoughtless jeers and contumely fifty or sixty years ago. Mrs. BLACKWELL was one of the first of American women to pursue a collegiate course of education, the opportunity for which was furnished in the Ohio Oberlin College, or Collegiate Institute as it was then called, the only institution of the sort which was open to women students at the time of her graduation in 1847, and in the same year LUCY STONE was graduated from that college.

Since that period the greatest of our universities have established departments specifically for women, and important colleges exclusively for women have been founded. Both the co-educational and the distinctively women's colleges are now crowded with students, and the latter to such an extent that they are embarrassed to afford accommodation for the increasing throng. In the public high schools, too, girls form the great majority of the students. In New York last year more than 58 per cent. of about twenty thousand pupils were girls; in Chicago the girls are two to one; in Philadelphia four to one; and generally in the high schools of the Union there are three girls to two boys. In the great cities 93 per cent. of the teachers in the public schools are educated women. This is a complete transformation since the period when Mrs. BLACKWELL and her distinguished associates began their agitation for "women's rights." Then men were regarded as the ideal teachers; now almost the whole of the teaching profession is feminine.

At the first Woman's Rights Convention a resolution declared that "as a teacher of theology, medicine or law she is not known." In 1900 there were in the United States 3,373 women ministers of the Gospel, 7,387 women physicians and surgeons, and 1,010 women lawyers. In every business and every profession women are now numerous. They make up a great part of the throngs in all the centres of business activity of every great city, and new inventions and developments of science and industry are steadily enlarging the field for the employment of their energies. Nowhere is there any discrimination against them because of their sex. The suffrage? No, not even in that, except so far as women themselves insist on its exercise. Wherever they unite to demand the suffrage they will get it.

Like the early agitators for women's rights very generally, Mrs. BLACKWELL was an earnest opponent of negro slavery. When she came out of the theological course at Oberlin a license as a Congregational minister was refused to her, but six years later she was regularly ordained as the pastor of a Congregational church; still later her doubts as to orthodox theology led her to enter the Unitarian ministry. Her long life has been filled with useful activity and we are glad of this opportunity to do honor to so good and so able a woman.

Recent Phases of Speculation in City Land.

The speculation in vacant land uptown which resulted from the opening of the subway has presented a number of interesting developments. These show that new methods are being employed in realty gambling. The new methods are more precise and efficient than those formerly in use. They permit exploitation of bigger areas of land and enable professional operators to discount values further into the future. By giving speculators a larger control over land values they serve to restrict the variety of practicable constructions. To investors they mean a smaller share in the unearned increment of real estate; to tenants, higher rents and a more limited choice of dwellings.

Formerly, when an outlying district was opened for settlement by new transportation facilities, the owners of large tracts of land generally marketed their holdings by public sale. The tracts were auctioned off in lots. The bidders were for the most part builders and loan operators. The latter bought for the purpose of reselling to builders with small capital, the resale being accompanied by a short term loan at a high rate of interest, to provide the means for the erection of a new building.

The lots secured by builders and loan operators were intended for prompt improvement. As a rule they passed through the hands of but one or two middlemen and their exploitation involved a comparatively moderate advance of prices. Private investors bought either for their own immediate use or for the sake of the more or less distant rise of prices incident to the building up of the neighborhood. The rise of land values was a matter largely of time. It preceded, but did not far outrun, the progress of building improvements.

Since the beginning of the present boom, however, not a single important holding of vacant land has been put up at auction. The buying and selling, though unprecedented in volume, has been conducted wholly by private treaty. The change is accounted for by the recent growth of professionalism in realty dealing. In the last five years several hundred realty companies have been incorporated, numerous syndicates of operators have been organized and the army of individual speculators has been heavily recruited. Speculation in real estate is less of an incidental pursuit followed by men of means engaged primarily in other lines of business than it was. It has become a distinct profession, with a huge volume of capital at its command.

At the beginning of the present speculation big tracts of land were bought up by certain corporations and syndicates, officers of which are connected with trust companies, banking houses, title guarantee companies and life insurance companies. These favored corporations and syndicates purchased land at wholesale and resold their purchases in subdivisions to smaller speculative interests, which continued the process of subdivision and resale.

Since the opening of the subway the seat of the speculation uptown has shifted several times. The centre of activity has moved in a circle and has gone over the same ground twice. It began in the Dyckman tract, at the extreme northerly end of Manhattan. That is, the heaviest buying was for a time confined to that district. The centre of the speculation afterward shifted successively to The Bronx, to the upper Lenox avenue district, and finally to Washington Heights, which completed the circuit.

The leaders in this activity were the corporations and syndicates which traded in large plots. A secondary activity followed, supported by the rank and file of professionals. Beginning in the Dyckman tract, it moved to The Bronx and then to the upper Lenox avenue district, as in the first course. About a month ago it shifted to Washington Heights, where it still continues.

The successive migrations of the centre of activity are explained by the fact that the cheapest land was exploited first, because offering the biggest margin of profit, and by the further circumstance that the strong corporations and syndicates opened the way for the small operators. Omitting earlier sporadic movements, the speculation began a month or two before the opening of the subway. It has since continued uninterruptedly with an intensity and volume unknown in former booms. Thousands of lots have passed out of their original ownership. Perhaps a majority have figured in half a dozen transactions in which both sellers and buyers were professional operators. Relatively few have been purchased by builders. It is believed that a third buying movement will develop when the building season opens in the spring.

The boom has proceeded on the theory that all the territory convenient to the subway will be available for improvement with flat houses. The army of speculators, with assistance from big financial institutions, has had command of sufficient capital to absorb all the vacant land in the market. The land has been traded in until prices have been reached which preclude its use for private dwellings or even for inexpensive flat houses. The speculation has been sufficiently extensive to fix the general level of values in the various localities. In each district the speculation stopped only when the fear began to spread among operators that prices were being forced too high even for the better grade of flats.

In The Bronx typical lot quotations rose from $1,500 to $5,000; in the upper Lenox avenue district, from $6,500 to $10,000; on Washington Heights, from $7,500 to $15,000. In each of these neighborhoods flat houses are the only construction now contemplated, differing merely in finish and in the size of apartments. The minimum rent anticipated in The Bronx is about $5 a room a month. The opening of the subway, therefore, promises no reduction in the burden of excessive rents which oppresses the lower and middle classes. The enormous value added to the outlying land by new transportation facilities has already been appropriated by the real estate speculator and his ally who handles the savings of the community deposited with financial institutions and life insurance companies.

The Letters in "The Sun."

This letter refers to a matter concerning which questions similar to that asked in it have often been put to us:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The communications appearing in THE SUN are always interesting. Will you answer a question about them? How many—say of a dozen—appear just as they were written? How many have to be 'made over'? W. S. H.

"WASHINGTON, March 1."

It is not surprising that such a doubt as he expresses should arise in the mind of our correspondent. The letters to which he refers are generally recognized as peculiar in character and in interest, and by no one so readily and with so much gratification as by ourselves. They seem to us, and probably to him also, to be distinguished among the letters of volunteer newspaper correspondents by a naturalness of expression, by an absence of self-consciousness, which gives them a place altogether by themselves.

The great defect of such letters written for publication is usually their literary affectation. They are written by people who are thinking less about conveying their thoughts or narrating facts within their knowledge than about the manner in which they do it—the impression they are likely to make on the editor and the reader as to their literary ability or dexterity. That is, they betray self-consciousness, and there is an artificiality of sentiment in them. The letters we print in THE SUN, it must be observed, are without these faults. They are written simply to tell exactly what is in the minds of their authors, and not to make a show of learning or literary art. They have the flavor of genuineness about them, and the chief aim of their writers seems to be simplicity and clearness in the expression of their actual thoughts. That is their great and peculiar charm.

Now, as to the specific question of our Washington friend. Generally, the letters in THE SUN are printed exactly as they are written, though in some cases they may be abbreviated. None of them is "made over." If sometimes a few corrections in their literary expression are needed, these are only slight and are rendered necessary merely because of haste in their production.

A wonderfully bright lot of people read THE SUN, and they are in every part of this continent, not only in our own country, but also in Canada; moreover, they are in South America and in every other part of the civilized world. We are proud of them and proud of the preference they give to this paper and the incentive to simple, clear and natural expression which it seems to give them. Self-consciousness is the deadly foe of good writing.

Will the mutualization of Russia precede that of the Equitable?

In 1903 Germany built 507 ships of 277,055 registered tons. Of these 12 were for the navy; 201, of 28,493 registered tons, were for the river and canal fleet; while 294, of 248,652 registered tons, were for the commercial fleet. The net increase in 1903 of more than 100,000 registered tons is a matter of considerable pride to Germans.

Question: How many ships did the United States build in 1903 for its commercial fleet?

There were 176 Democrats in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-eighth Congress; there will be 135 in the Fifty-ninth. From Ohio there were 4 and from Illinois 8 Democrats—12. In the next Congress there will be only 2, one member each from two of the most important States of the country. A large part of southern Illinois, including the territory called "Egypt," and a considerable part of southern and western Ohio, were settled by immigrants from Virginia, and those portions of Illinois and Ohio have retained the distinction of being strongly Democratic. Through the civil war and generally in elections since they have been steadfastly Democratic. Whatever disasters the party sustained in other sections of the country, these agricultural districts of Illinois and Ohio remained Democratic.

Last year, for the first time, the spell of half a century was broken. The one Illinois district which remained faithful to the Democratic party was what is known as the Pike county district on the Mississippi, the chief town of which is Jacksonville. It includes Pike, the scene of many of JOHN HAY'S earlier poems and stories, particularly "Jim Bludso." It was the only Congress district carried by the Democrats in November.

The Ohio district which remains Democratic is made up of counties on the Indiana border about Lima, in Allen county, the political home of CALVIN S. BRICE when elected United States Senator from Ohio.

In the new House of Representatives Pennsylvania has only one Democratic member, and California, Nebraska and Connecticut are represented by Republican members only.

While President THEODORE ROOSEVELT watched the long and brilliant inaugural parade pass in review yesterday afternoon, did he long for rest and the Simple Life?

In the name of the Western Reserve, how comes a militia organization in the State of Ohio to be styled "The Royal Battalion"?

The Rabbi's First Naturalization Papers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It was with an enthusiastic interest that I read the news item in yesterday's SUN which spoke of the issuing of the preliminary naturalization papers to Rabbi Jacob David Ridvas; or, as those who have been fortunate in knowing him better, the Slutzker Rav.

About four years ago, as your readers will recollect, your representative, with the aid of an interpreter, questioned Rabbi Ridvas, or, as he then was known, Rabbi Wilkowsky, on Jewish matters in one of the synagogues in Baldwin place, Boston. THE SUN then stated that Rabbi Ridvas was the foremost orthodox rabbi in that greatest of Jewish countries, numerically speaking, Russia. When Rabbi Ridvas becomes an American citizen, Russia, as far as his citizenship with that country by reason of his birth is concerned, will be a matter of the past with him.

One of the foremost, if not the greatest, of Russian rabbis, when he, as the representative of the majority of Jewish inhabitants in the United States, sets the example to his un-Americanized brethren by applying for his first naturalization papers after the minimum number of years of residence required by law of a foreign born inhabitant, he, as a great Jewish leader, goes a long way in paving a way and providing a justifiable reason why all Jews should by all means strive to be a credit to Israel and to their adopted land by becoming citizens of the United States.

In an epoch such as Judaism is blessed with at present, when the Jews as a race seem to be practically leaderless, i. e., that is, when the Jews cannot point to many worthy examplary characters among them, the action of Rabbi Ridvas, an old man, in seeking citizenship in our country can be compared to a beacon light in the darkness.

The Jewish belief is a religion that teaches by example, and the action of Rabbi Ridvas should drive back the assertion that Jews are unpatriotic. At least, their most learned Talmudist and rabbi of rabbis is not unpatriotic. HANIAH RUDNICK.

NEW YORK, March 2.

The Andrew H. Green Memorial.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I see by the morning papers that the Andrew H. Green Memorial Association has proposed to Park Commissioner Pallas a site for the memorial of Mr. Green at a point a considerable distance within the borders of Central Park, across the drive looking into the park from the Seventh avenue entrance at 110th street.

There is no doubt that Mr. Green's eminent services to New York city, especially his work in advancing Central Park to practical completion, render it right and proper that a memorial should be given him in the most dignified and worthy spot that can be obtained in New York. The point, however, which I am specially desirous of making is that the memorial committee and the Park Commissioner should deliberate carefully whether the site at Seventh avenue and 110th street is really a proper one, in view of the fact, well known to many of Mr. Green's friends, that he was always strongly opposed to placing any portrait statues or memorials in Central Park.

Knowing, as I do personally, how strongly Mr. Green frequently expressed himself on this subject, I have taken this opportunity of asking THE SUN to exert its influence to prevent any action in the choice of a site that would be manifestly opposed to Mr. Green's lifelong convictions. C. D.

NEW YORK, March 2.

The Swayne Impeachment.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your editorials on the very able brief of Messrs. Thurston and Higgins in the impeachment proceedings against Judge Swayne were very interesting; but if Alexander Hamilton was correct in reminding Mr. Jefferson, when President, that the American judicial system was not modelled after the British system, your conclusion, as well as that of Messrs. Thurston and Higgins, that "high crimes and misdemeanors" in the American Constitution should be given the same construction which had been given to them in impeachments in England, is not well taken. The very fact that the power to remove English Judges vested in the Crown on the address of both houses of Parliament was not vested in the President of the United States on the address of both houses of the American Congress is conclusive that the "Fathers" did not adopt the English system in our Constitution.

On page 827 of Volume 7 of Hamilton's Works, in speaking of the difference between the American and English systems of judicature, Alexander Hamilton said: "But it is very evident that the framers of the Federal system did not mean to confine themselves to that [English] model."

CHICAGO, March 2. OTTO GRESHAM.

Fireproof Mail Cars.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Doesn't the burning of the United States mail car on the Baltimore and Ohio near Cumberland, Md., yesterday suggest to somebody that mail cars should be fireproof? By that fire 17,000 pounds of mail matter, including all sorts of business letters, registered letters, packages, $250,000 in bank notes, unsigned, $2,000 in checks and a large quantity of gold and silver bullion were burned and melted. Not to mention the actual loss in value, the derangement of the business of hundreds of persons is worth considering. Why haven't mail cars and express cars been of fireproof construction for years? Are our car builders unequal to turning out cars which will not burn? Economy might stand in the way of such construction for passenger cars, but that should be no excuse in the case of mail and express cars. F. P.

NEW YORK, March 2.

An Osteopath's Retort.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The report of the hearing given at Albany yesterday on the bill to regulate the practice of osteopathy states that the principal argument of the opposition was made by Dr. Robert T. Morris of New York city, and that he created a surprise by producing a cadaver and challenging the osteopaths to demonstrate thereon their practice. The practice consists in correcting derangements of the structure in the living body. Dr. Morris may know that all functions of the body begin and cease with life; if not, let him administer a cathartic to the cadaver to demonstrate the merit of the school to which he belongs. C. E. F.

ORANGE, N. J., March 2.

Bronx Wants More Libraries.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The people who manage the New York Public Library, and who run circulating libraries in various parts of Manhattan, are extraordinarily negligent of the interests of Bronx borough, and it is about time that something should be done in the premises.

Unless I am mistaken, the New York Public Library handles a considerable amount of public money; and I fail to see why the Bronx taxpayers and their children should be so grossly neglected in this important matter of library facilities.

NEW YORK, March 2. UNION AVENUE.

Where Creeping Bear Drew the Line.

From the Kansas City Journal.

Joe Creeping Bear, who says that he once played tackle on the Carlisle Indian football team, was sent to the city hospital last night suffering with a severe attack of rheumatism. The Indian called at Police Headquarters for a permit to enter the hospital. While he waited for Assistant Police Surgeon La Rue to give him the necessary paper he took occasion to vigorously deny the report that he had ever sawed wood at the Helping Hand.

"Me saw wood!" he exclaimed, with rising indignation. "Indian never do that. That squaw work."

Church Steeples Called Relics of Barbarism.

From the Church Economist.

The Rev. Dr. Forbes, secretary of the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church, has recently spoken as follows:

"Steeples are relics of barbarism, and were used to point to heaven when it was thought the world was flat. Now that it is known that the world is round, they point the wrong way and should be demolished. There is enough money wasted in church steeples to pay the debts of the entire country. Pastors should get rid of their bells and chimes and use the money spent for these articles to supply Sunday schools with libraries."

Russia's Vital Railway.

We shall double track the Siberian Railway.—*Russian authorities.*

'Tis well, quite well;
A double track is good
For that Siberian,
Sombre solitude.

The first track led you
Westward to the Japan row,
And having had it good and hard,
You need a back track now.

Wade.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

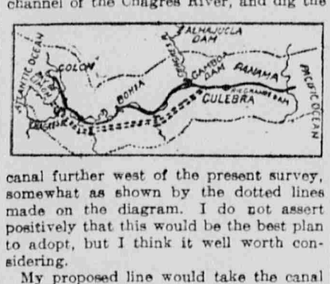
Mr. Crichfield Suggests the Abandonment of Two-Thirds of the Present Route.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The engineering committee of the Isthmian Canal Commission has recommended the digging of a deep sea canal—an eminently wise and proper plan, on which we may congratulate the committee, the chief engineer and the Government at Washington. It is not certain, however, that similar commendation can be given the further recommendation of the committee, that a tunnel be constructed through the mountains to the Pacific side for the purpose of diverting the flood waters of the Chagres, which sometimes amount to three or four hundred thousand cubic feet per minute. The trouble is that all these collateral works cost money—usually several times as much as the preliminary estimates—and when completed the evil is only partially cured.

The suggestion I am going to make is only tentative, for I have not made that personal examination of the territory, or of the surveys, which would enable me to form definitely a decisive opinion, but I think it worth considering. It is this:

The canal as laid out by the French crosses the Chagres River many times between Colon and Obispo, and although a large part of that portion of the work was finished it has since been largely filled up by the detritus carried down by the river. It seems to me that if we dig the canal along this old line, not only will the waters of the river be a continual and expensive interruption to the work of excavation, but even once completed, the process of filling in will go on forever, no matter what methods we may adopt for diverting the flood waters to the Pacific side, or elsewhere. Of course, this is not an insuperable obstacle, for the process of dredging could be continued for all time to come in that section of the canal, but that would be a great nuisance and expense, to be avoided if possible.

I think it would be wise for the Isthmian Commission to consider seriously the advisability of abandoning entirely that portion of the canal between Colon and Bas Obispo, leaving it for the uninterrupted channel of the Chagres River, and dig the



canal further west of the present survey, somewhat as shown by the dotted lines made on the diagram. I do not assert positively that this would be the best plan to adopt, but I think it well worth considering.

My proposed line would take the canal through certain large swamps between the Trinidad River and Caño Quebrado, and this might be considered an objection; but my experience in cutting through these tropical swamps is as a rule that the mud or soft earth is not very deep, and that hard clay is found underneath, so that the task of cutting through a swamp is not so difficult as might at first be surmised. Levees, similar to those on the banks of the Mississippi at New Orleans, constructed from the spoil of the canal itself, would, I think, be sufficient to guard the sides of the canal. It might be advisable to make the levee heavier on the side next the Chagres.

The French probably adopted the present route thinking thereby to save excavation, but it was a great mistake. There is nothing cheaper than handling plain dirt in a dry ditch, and it might be that the line I indicate would cost less to dig, in the end, than the one actually in contemplation.

If this route should be found practicable—and there is little doubt on this point—the outflow of the Chagres would not touch the canal at all. All these mysterious and awe inspiring "problems in hydraulics" which the engineers so dearly love would be eliminated and the construction of the canal would indeed be the simple question of digging dirt.

Such a simplification of the canal problem ought to prove highly gratifying to Uncle Sam's bank account. To be sure, digging dirt is a very plebeian occupation, and there seem to be eminent authorities who think all other methods should be tried first. The "dig dirt plan" may seem a little old fashioned, because it does not necessitate many long winded technical reports. By it there is no need of exhausting the solemn wisdom of the generation in "studies," "researches," "investigations" and "plans." It doesn't involve any brilliant appeals to the experience of the halcyon days of De Lesseps; *but it is the only way to make a canal.*

Divide it up into fifty or sixty sections; let the work upon competitive bidding to responsible contractors; keep as far away from the Chagres River as possible; employ every steam shovel or other excavating device which can be advantageously used; work night and day in the Culebra section—and, in short, *since it is only a big ditch, dig it as you would any other ditch.*

There are any number of private corporations in the United States which employ more men than the United States is now using on the Panama Canal. We are starting this great work in a pickayunish, jim crow style which reflects but little credit on the energy and enterprise of the American people.

As illustrating this point, I quote from a private letter from Seattle, Wash.:

Apropos of your comparison between private and public work, we have out here a very convincing object lesson. The general Government built one lock at the Cascades of the Columbia at an expense in money of nearly $5,000,000 and in time of nearly twenty years, while a private corporation built six locks at the falls of the Willamette at an expense in money of less than $400,000 and in time of less than two years.

There you have the whole thing in a nutshell. There would not be the slightest difficulty in digging the Panama Canal in four years time, and for a great deal less than the present estimates, if it were managed as well as the average private American contracting corporation.

GEORGE W. CRICHFIELD.

NEW YORK, March 4.

In Canned Goods Department.

From Harper's Weekly.

A New York woman tells of an experience which she had recently in one of the large department stores. She was looking for some house furnishings, and, walking up to one of the floorwalkers, asked where she could see the candelabra.

"All canned goods two counters to the left," answered the official guide, briefly.

Post-Inaugural.

The tumult and the shouting dies,
The cowboys and the clubs depart,
The lights are dead, the banners droop,
The folk return to farm and mart.
The country's normal now—and yet,
Will he forget? Will he forget?

Splendid the triumph, great the prize,
And high the thought of any man
To hear a mighty people call,
To know him chosen for the van.
With praise and pride of place beset,
Will he forget? Will he forget?

High hearted, hopeful, sanguine, strong,
Heed ye the lessons on the scroll
Where Washington and Lincoln wrote:
Let sober second thought control.
Tradition for your amulet,
You'll not forget—you'll not forget.

MAURICE MORRIS.

SALUTARY EFFECT OF PUBLICITY

A Reply by the Rev. Antoinette Brown Blackwell to "The Sun's" Remarks.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Thank you sincerely for yesterday's editorial of the above title, which gives me the opportunity of writing on another phase of the crime problem. I also believe that "publicity is one of the most potent of restraining influences"—to any class which has gained honorable standing socially. But there is a broad distinction between the misdemeanors of that mature and coveted elevation and those of the starved world of poverty, misdirected impulse, ignorance and social discredit. Equally removed are they from the immaturity of all childhood.

My former paper dealt chiefly with the only crimes possible to the weak and the young. My appeal was for their protection from needless temptations.

The force of vicious suggestion is epidemic among all classes to which its crimes appeal as temptation. Witness the spread of trusts working in restraint of trade, in illegal rebates, in frenzied finance, in organized white slave trading. All these are dishonest for the sake of moneyed gain.

But here the antidote is close at hand. As soon as the people are fully informed as to the system, the system receives its death blow. The wider, the more detailed the exposure of all crooked, cool blooded plotting of greed and ambition to enrich the few at the expense of the many, the better. Honesty and intelligence of the better sort can and will deal hard blows when they see just where and what to strike.

With these greater mature criminals the popular Mrs. Grundy is more powerful than legislation. Legislation may be made to yield to powerful moneyed influence, but all of the good people of a community will not consent to be robbed by one hand and bribed by the other. The open eyed public will protect itself.

The great lesson of this age is that of the honest trust, the efficient, wise, invincible copartnership. Organization is power, but it must ground itself upon impartial justice, if not on the higher basis of pure benevolence. It is impossible to deceive all of the people all of the time.

But what do the crooks and toughs of out-at-elbow humanity care for the public opinion of a respectability which seems alien and antagonistic to theirs? Their Mrs. Grundy is not wearing broadcloth and silk. Her highest admiration is given to the most skilful of her sons and daughters, who can most cleverly overreach the hated and envied rich.

The young, also, whether well or ill provided for, are too immature to realize the crushing weight of a general upright condemnation. Crime to them is half innocence.

In the nature of the case, the crimes of all of these must be largely of a personal, nearly isolated kind. They are the crimes of impulse, of uncurbed passions, of grievous needs, often of suffering so unbearable that desperate deeds seem the only open door to relief. To these the broadcast suggestion of crimes, which they can yield is evil and only evil continually.

Does any one really suppose the community would suffer loss if criminal courts were legally required to use their best discretion to decide what audience should be admitted to their sessions? The court room is not the best school room for loafers. Would the Commonwealth be the poorer if newspapers were forbidden by law to expatiate upon, as some of them do, to fairly gloat over, the details of these criminal trials? And if public opinion should become strong and noble enough to kill the "yellow" of all journalism outright, would that be impoverishing the nation?

In spite of the unparalleled war in the Far East, we are nearer to-day than ever before to international peace and arbitration. Submerged environments are still in the gloom of the dark ages, but the uplands are coming more and more into the sunshine. The Bible language of two or three thousand years ago is not our language of to-day, though its golden rule is the creed of Christendom. Some of its earlier methods of treating vice are not the best methods of this era.

Even that manifold book, the Bible, has its higher and lower planes, its more than one standard of morals.

With what century can we class this humiliating advertisement:

PENNSYLVANIA'S GREAT DOUBLE EXECUTION!

Hanging of Mrs. Kate Edwards and Samuel Greason in Reading on February 16, with one exception the first woman in ninety-five years to hang in Pennsylvania!

The Utica *Saturday Globe*, in its issues for February 11 and February 18, will describe the crime, the prison life and the hanging of these murderers. George D. Shay, the well known descriptive writer, and a photographer sent from Utica to the scene of the murder and to the Jail in Reading will furnish the *Globe* readers with the best account of the execution, will have more and better pictures than any other paper, and will be a fine one to preserve and send to absent friends of this remarkable crime and execution.

Order copies of this issue of the *Saturday Globe* agent.

Thank fortune that the non-delivery of the thirty pieces of silver need not impel that agent and that journal to suicide. There is room for reformation.

Of course, side by side with heathendom we have a purer morality than ever before. We have a larger proportion of upright intelligence and unselfishness. Just now, if organized fraud is not more widely developed, it is much more in painful evidence. The sleeping lion of wise self-protective and helplessness-protective energy is only beginning to awake, thanks to the vigorous newspaper and magazine exposures of the complex, deliberately planned and executed schemes of the modern types of wholesale robberies. To all of these turn on the searchlights strenuously, relentlessly.

Comparative statistics of that class of crimes have not yet been tabulated. If ever they are brought into the classification with other crimes, the effect will be wonderful and highly enlightening. The world moves ever onward, but it has always moved in curves, and not in a continuous straight line.

ANTOINETTE BROWN BLACKWELL.

ELIZABETH, March 2.

A Socialist's View of Our Political Situation.

From the Arena Magazine.

There are two views of the development of the United States widely entertained in Europe. The view of the European ruling classes is that we are rapidly moving toward an imperial oligarchy, with our oligarchs chosen by our aristocracy of wealth through controlled parties, the choices being formally ratified by the people—just as the Roman Senate used to "elect" the Imperator. The other view is that we are in the near future to be reconstructed into a modified social-democratic republic, with the production and distribution of the necessities of life under a State control so rigid as practically to amount to socialization, with heavy taxes on wealth, with compulsory arbitration, &c.

In the opinion of the "practical" Socialists, and, for that matter, of the European ruling classes, too, our ancient individualism is perishing. And the Socialists laugh at the way Americans shy at the name Socialist. "Read the platforms of both your great parties," said a French Socialist recently to an American. "Read the speeches of your candidates for office. Read the laws proposed and the laws passed at the last sessions of the Legislatures of all your great States. Then tell me what you think has happened to your cherished dogma of 'Every tub on its own bottom.' No, you Americans have done with individualism."

Our Trade With Italy.

Italy has a foreign commerce of $670,000,000 yearly, made up of $380,000,000 imports and $290,000,000 exports. In this the United States shared in 1904 to the extent of $36,000,000 exports to and $33,000,000 imports from Italy, Austria, Germany and France lead us in exports to Italy. The chief item in our sales was 405,367 bales of raw cotton, worth $23,893,000; of which Italy buys about $50,000,000 each year. Italy also imports from us, chiefly, agricultural implements, books and maps, cycles, cars and carriages, clocks and watches, copper, fertilizers ($857,000), scientific apparatus, builders' hardware, typewriters, sole leather, upper leather, naval stores, spirits of turpentine, mineral oils ($1,678,000), paper and manufactures of, paraffin and paraffin wax ($564,000); canned beef, tallow, lard, leaf tobacco ($2,476,000), timber and lumber ($890,000), and furniture.

Our exports to Italy have grown from $6,109,000 in 1895, $21,502,000 in 1897, to $35,720,000 in 1904. Our imports from Italy were $2,177,000 in 1895, $19,067,000 in 1897, and $33,558,000 in 1904.

The Oldest Practising Physician in Alabama.

From the Birmingham Age-Herald.

Dr. W. L. Heflin of Randolph county, the father of the Drs. Heflin, the Attorneys Heflin, the Revs. Heflin and Congressman Heflin, has been confined at the Heflin infirmary for the past few weeks with a slight illness. He is able to sit up now and receives daily a number of his friends. He talks interestingly of the past, the present and the future, and, true to the Heflin nature, has a stock of anecdotes which he aptly uses to illustrate his points.

From Underground.

The crocus to the surface comes,
Emerging with elation,
And mighty glad it is to find
Its little subway station.